

WI-189  
Larner McLain House  
Whitehaven  
Private

Early 19th century, c. 1890

The Larner McLain house is one of the most architecturally distinctive dwellings to survive along Whitehaven's principal avenue, River Street. The two-story, three-bay, single-pile structure is dominated by a undulating front elevation with a center two-story porch flanked by two-story, three-sided bay pavilions. Despite the exuberant Victorian nature of the river elevation, the main block is a much older structure dating from the first decades of the nineteenth century.

The early to mid nineteenth century history of this house and lot is clouded with vague references labeling it part of the "Lloyd property" prior to 1881 when James H. Elliott purchased this "house and lot." James H. Elliott's ownership of the property was short-lived since he sold it three months later. Several years later, in February 1889, the lot and its improvements were sold to Larner T. McLain for \$450. Due to the late nineteenth century character of the alterations, the Victorian changes were probably made during Larner McLain's ownership. McLain family tenure was maintained until the mid twentieth century, when it was sold to another long-time owner, Cecil and Esther Evans Covington.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: LARNER MCLAIN HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WI-189

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE

2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Development Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition  
1815-1870

4) Resource Type(s): Industrial-Urban Dominance  
1870-1930

Single-family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-189

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic LARNER MCLAIN HOUSE

and/or common HUGHES HOUSE

**2. Location**

street & number 23826 River Street    not for publication

city, town Whitehaven    vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture
<u>  </u> building(s)	<u>  </u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial
	<u>  </u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military
			<u>  </u> museum
			<u>  </u> park
			<u>  </u> private residence
			<u>  </u> religious
			<u>  </u> scientific
			<u>  </u> transportation
			<u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Jim and Lynda Hughes

street & number 23826 River Street telephone no.:

city, town Whitehaven state and zip code MD 21856

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1217 Map 65

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 393 P.34

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title

date    federal    state    county    local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-189

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Larner McLain house, commonly known as the Hughes house, stands at 23826 River Street in the center of Whitehaven, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling faces south with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Erected in two distinct stages the two-story, three-bay main block dates to the early nineteenth century and was extensively remodeled around 1890-1900 in Victorian taste. Supported on a low brick foundation, the house is covered with a combination of vinyl siding and fishscale shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story service wing.

The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical facade with a center entrance and flanking two-story, three-side bay pavilions topped by semi-octagonal conical roofs. Sheltering the center bay is a two-story gable roofed porch supported on turned posts and trimmed with a cross-stick balustrade and spindle decoration. Doors on the first and second floor are partially glazed. The first and second floors are lighted by single-pane sash windows. The second floor of each bay as well as the gable-front wall of the porch are covered with fishscale shingles.

The east and west gable ends are essentially alike with interior end brick chimneys rising through the peak of the gable roof. The gable end eaves are extended and finished with returns at the base. Small two-over-two windows light the attic.

The north (rear) wall is partially covered by a two-story kitchen wing that is extended by shed additions.

The interior was not seen.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-189

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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The early to mid nineteenth century history of this house and lot is clouded with vague references labeling it part of the "Lloyd property" prior to 1881 when James H. Elliott purchased this "house and lot." (SPT 4/324) James H. Elliott's ownership of the property was short-lived since he sold it three months later. (SPT 4/378) Several years later, in February 1889, the lot and its improvements were sold to Larner T. McLain for \$450. (FMS 4/395) Due to the late nineteenth century character of the alterations, the Victorian changes were probably made during Larner McLain's ownership. McLain family tenure was maintained until the mid twentieth century, when it was sold to another long-time owner, Cecil and Esther Evans Covington. (JWS 254/415)

Due to the unusual architectural character of this house it falls into Category A, which signifies that it is a structure which must be retained since it exhibits many good architectural details and contributes uniquely and superlatively to the character of the historic district.



WI-189  
LARNER McLAIN HOUSE  
23826 River Street  
Whitehaven, Maryland  
Chain of title

1217/393                      S. Paul Kajencki  
                                 Jenifer S. Kajencki

to

5/9/1990                      James and Lynda Hughes

AJS 1069/622                  Gene C. Russell  
                                 Patricia A. Russell

to

6/25/1986                      S. Paul Kajencki  
                                 Jenifer S. Kajencki

AJS 860/312                      Rollie H. White, Jr.  
                                 Doris Jean Fitch White

to

8/10/1976                      Gene C. Russell  
                                 Patricia A. Russell

AJS 857/555                      Rollie H. White, Jr. et al.

to

6/16/1976                      Rollie H. White, Jr.  
                                 Doris Jean Fitch White

AJS 841/370                      Stephen T. Hornung

to

8/11/1975                      Rollie H. White, Jr.  
                                 Doris Jean Fitch White

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LARNER MCLAIN HOUSE  
23826 River Street  
Whitehaven, Maryland  
Chain of title

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JWTS 775/485 Esther Evans Covington

to

11/17/1972 Stephen T. Hornung

JWS 254/415 Ella McLain Grier and others

to

7/19/1943 Cecil Covington  
Esther Evans Covington

FMS 4/395 George W. Burton and wife Stella Burton

to

2/19/1889 Larner T. McLain  
devised by last will and testament of  
said Larner T. McLain dated February 21, 1931  
Will Book MNN 1/380 unto Ella McLain Grier  
and Janna Kenney Wright  
\$450 house and lot with all its  
improvements

Mortgage  
FMS 3/506

William A. Hurley

to

9/11/1888 George W. Burton  
Whereas George W. Burton is justly indebted  
unto Mary E. Hurley wife of William A.  
Hurley for \$225.00



WI-189  
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23826 River Street  
Whitehaven, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

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FMS 3/305

William A. Hurley  
Mary F. Hurley

to

9/11/1888

George W. Burton  
\$400 where the grantors now reside

SPT 4/378

James H. Elliott  
Morisa E. Elliott

to

1/3/1882

Mary E. Hurley  
\$250.00 known as a portion of the 'Loyd'  
property situated between John W.  
Wingate and Zachary W. Taylor the  
same property conveyed from said  
Loyds to John White of Salisbury  
and then to John W. Wingate &  
Zachariah W. Taylor and then to  
James H. Elliott containing one  
half acre

SPT 4/324

John W. Wingate and wife  
Zachariah W. Taylor

to

10/14/1881

James H. Elliott  
\$250.00 a house and lot at White Haven  
1216 feet in length 51 feet 18 inches  
front end and 45 feet back end a  
black smith shop and wharf fronting  
which is part of the Lloyd property

SPT 4/310

John White

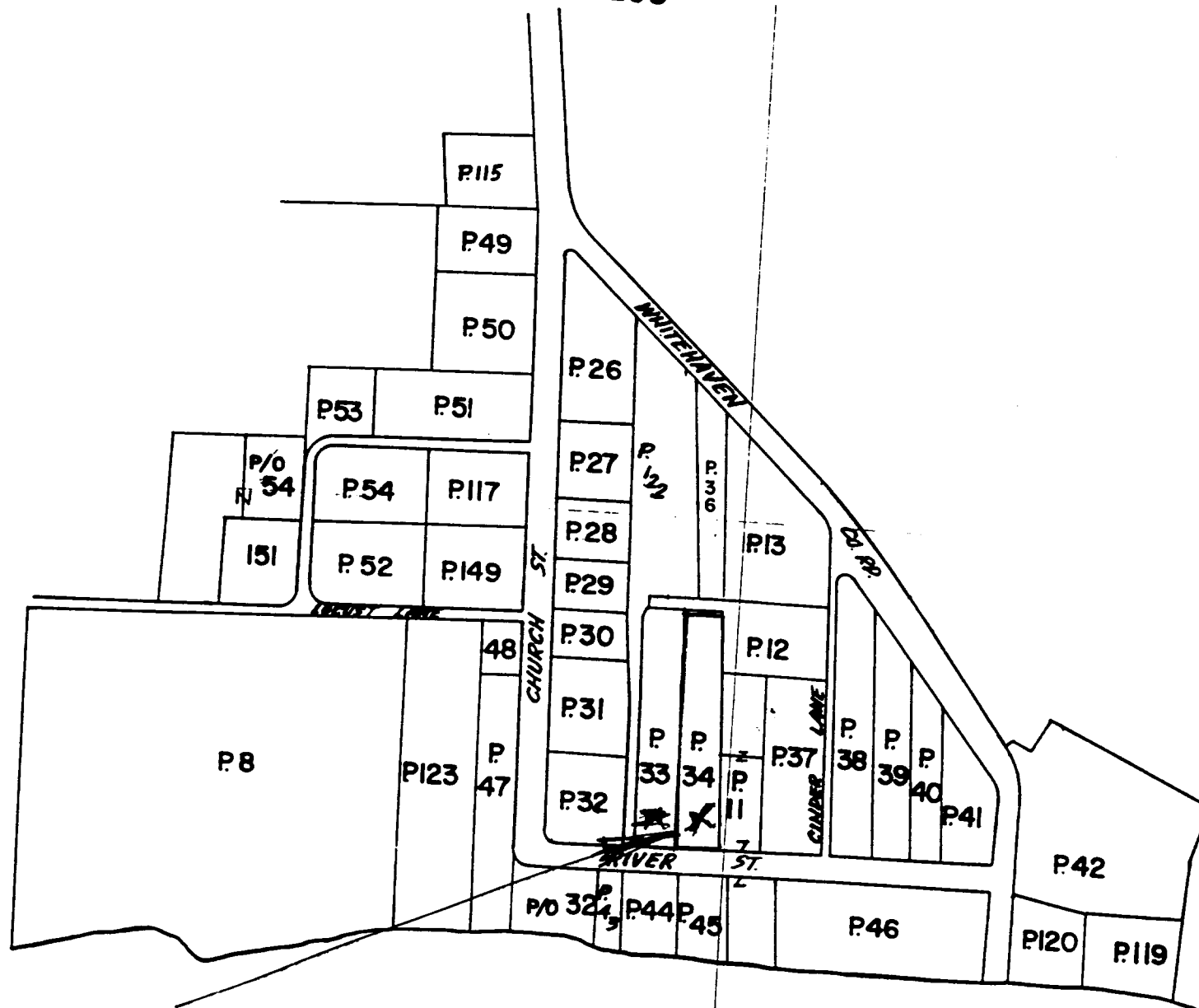
to

9/14/1881

John W. Wingate  
Zachary W. Taylor \$300.00

# WHITEHAVEN

SCALE 1"=200'



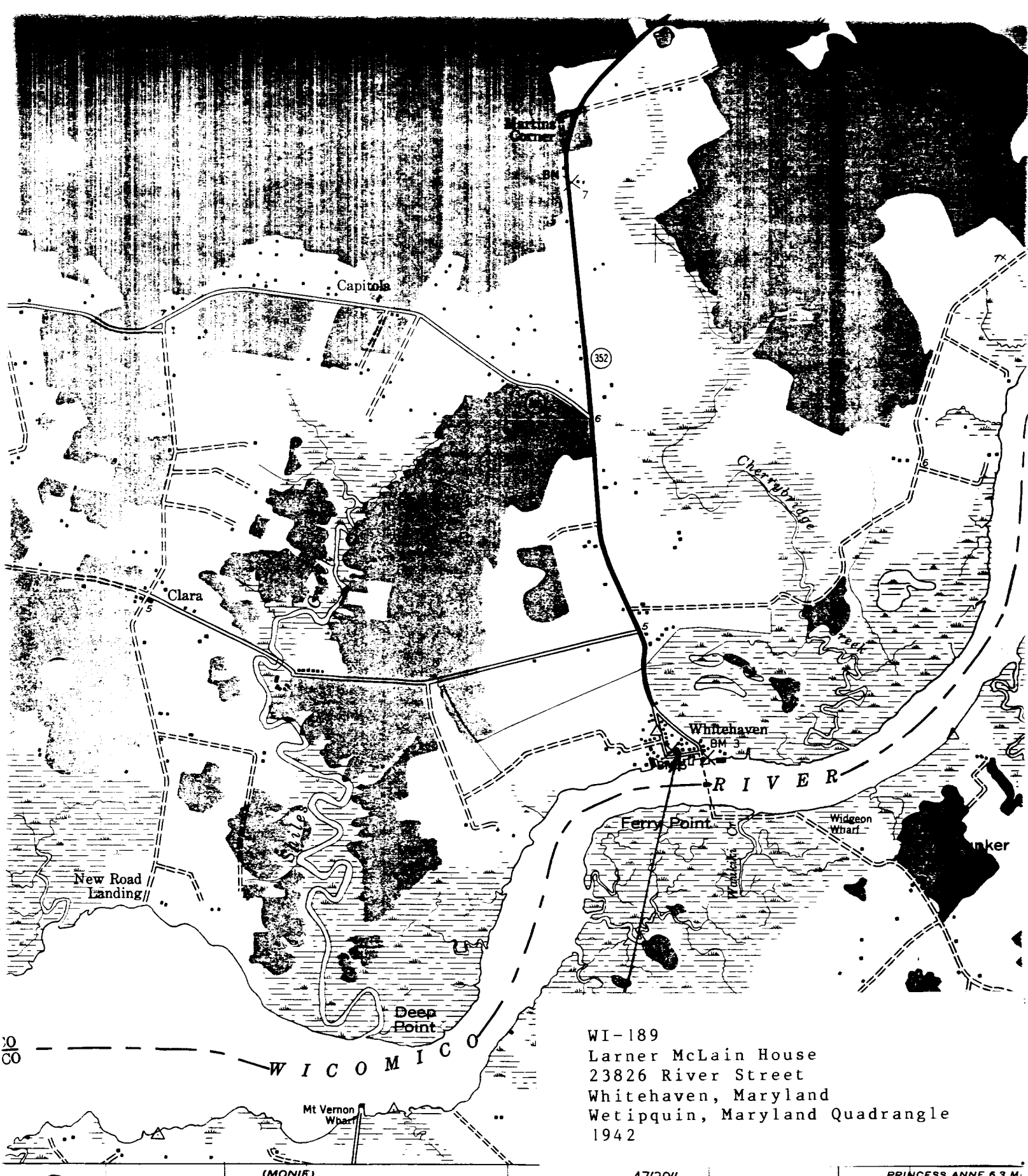
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Larner McLain House

23826 River Street

Wicomico County Tax Map 65

Parcel 34

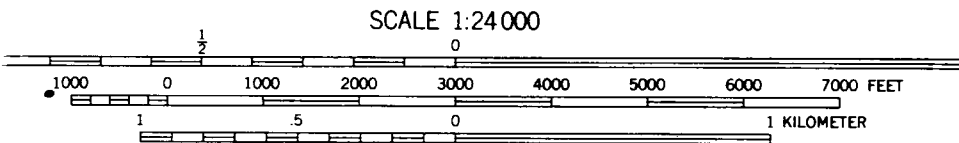


WI-189  
 Larner McLain House  
 23826 River Street  
 Whitehaven, Maryland  
 Wetipquin, Maryland Quadrangle  
 1942

47°30"

PRINCESS ANNE 6.3 M.

WI-189



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL









